

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 40-83, 97 and 98 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 40-83, 97 and 98 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 84-90, 92 and 93 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinbara (US 4,788,994) in view of Hey (US 6,551,488) and Uzoh (US 6,612, 915). Claim 91 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinbara in view of Hey and Uzoh and further in view of Kodera (US 5,695,601).

Claims 94-96 have been allowed. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 84-93 have also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only allowed claims 94-96 remain pending in the application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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